

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
September 23, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Jerry Cummins, Myron Huie, Steve Moss, and Mayor Barbara Clark.

Absent: Councilmember Tom Scribner.

City staff in attendance: Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wes Walker, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also present for Item A: County Commissioners Todd Kimball and Greg Tompkins; Port Commissioners Mike Frederickson, Ron Dunning and Peter Swant; Washington State Department of Transportation Assistant Regional Manager Troy Suing and Todd Daly.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Alternatives for the US 12/Clinton and US 12/Wilbur intersections.

Scott Mansur, DKS Associates, reviewed:

- Study area.
- Project schedule and process.
- Purpose statement.
- Project need statement.
- Technical Advisory Committee members.
- Existing conditions: lack of connectivity.
- Existing conditions: Out of direction travel.
- Future baseline: 2040 condition.
- Scenario development and concept alternatives.
- Final alternative scenarios:
 - Partial cloverleaf interchange at Clinton Street (\$35 to \$45 million) with acceleration and deceleration lanes at Wilbur Street (\$1 to \$2 million).

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- Diamond interchange at Clinton Street (\$35 to \$45 million) with acceleration and deceleration lanes at Wilbur Street (\$1 to \$2 million).
- Dual lane roundabout at Clinton Street (\$8 to \$13 million) and a dual lane roundabout at Wilbur Street \$3 to \$8 million).
- Public input meeting and survey feedback.
- Scenario evaluation.
- Similar roundabouts on high speed roadways in Washington.
- Traffic analysis.
- Safety.
- Benefit cost ratios and evaluation criteria.

Troy Suing, Washington State Department of Transportation, reported on their practical decision-making process and core principles.

There was discussion on:

- Cost estimates are in present day values.
- Wide variance in cost estimates for roundabouts.
- Pedestrian crossings in the roundabout scenario.
- Project funding.
- Cost benefit analysis was performed with the current barriers installed at Clinton Street.
- Most accidents in roundabouts are property damage only and not health and safety due to the lowered speeds.
- Pedestrian safety under Scenarios 1 and 2.
- History of use of roundabouts on high-speed roadways.
- Utilizing the Metropolitan Planning Organization to establish project priorities in the region.
- Crash data on pedestrian crossings.
- Speed limits on Highway 12 and how they are established.
- Next steps include weighing citizen input.

- B. Rate structure options for improving the fairness and equity of stormwater rates.

Public Works Director Bealey reviewed:

- Improving equity.
- Overview.
- History.
- Functions of the stormwater utility.
- Opportunities for improvement.
- Regulatory drivers.

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- Overly high level of credits provided to non-residential customers.
- Rate structure options.
- Recommendation from both Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee and Finance Committee: Per account charge plus impervious area equivalent residential unit (No Credits) with a phase in over five years.
- Next steps.

There was discussion on:

- Credits and lack of good rationale and documentation for current system.
- Whether a five-year phase in period is too long.
- Reaching out to customers with credits to identify why the credits were granted.
- The Finance Committee recommends beginning the change in 2020 with a five-year implementation.
- Identify if any utility customers have a written agreement for the stormwater credits.
- Elimination of credits.
- Parking lots do not appear to comply with current standards.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to eliminate credits beginning in 2020 with either a three or five-year phase in option.

C. Discussion on surveillance cameras in parks.

Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reported on:

- Examples of vandalism in the parks.
- Annual cost to address vandalism in the parks is \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Staff recommends installing camera systems in the parks at a cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per system, estimated at \$150,000 for all parks.
- Camera features.
- Benefits of cameras beyond deterring vandalism.
- Other city facilities with cameras; and other government agencies with cameras.
- The Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board recommend moving forward starting with one park.
- Staff is requesting authorization to move forward with the installation of cameras in parks.

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There was discussion on:

- The cameras will have twenty-four-hour operation, seven days per week with thirty day recording capability.
- Privacy issues will be discussed with the City Attorney.
- Washington Park is recommended for the first camera installation.
- No alternative solutions to the vandalism issue was discussed by the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff bring back the policy issue for action by Council.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.